

MORONGO BAND OF MISSION **INDIANS** 



August 16, 2010

State Clearinghouse P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

SUBJECT: Notice of Completion & Notice of Availability

& Environmental Document Transmittal **Eagle Mountain Pumped Storage Project** 

SCH#2009011010

Thank you for contacting the Morongo Band of Mission Indians regarding the above referenced project. The Tribe greatly appreciates the opportunity to review the project and, respectfully, offer the following comments.

The project is outside of the Tribe's current reservation boundaries but within an area that may be considered a traditional use area or one in which the Tribe has cultural ties (e.g. Cahuilla/Serrano territory). Because the project is a pumped storage hydroelectric project which will provide 1,300 MW of generating capacity, using reversible pump-turbine units, with four units of 325 MW each using off-peak energy to pump water from a lower reservoir to an upper reservoir during periods of low electrical demand and generate energy by passing water from the upper to the lower reservoir through the generating units during periods of high electrical demand the Morongo Band of Mission Indians asks that you impose specific conditions regarding cultural and/or archaeological resources and buried cultural materials on any development plans or entitlement applications as follows:

- o If human remains are encountered during grading and other construction excavation, work in the immediate vicinity shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5.
- In the event that Native American cultural resources are discovered during project development/construction, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall cease and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the overall project may continue during this assessment period.

If significant Native American cultural resources are discovered, for which a Treatment Plan must be prepared, the developer or his archaeologist shall contact the Morongo Band of Mission Indians

("Tribe")<sup>1</sup>. If requested by the Tribe, the developer or the project archaeologist shall, in good faith, consult on the discovery and its disposition (e.g. avoidance, preservation, return of artifacts to tribe, etc.).

If I may be of further assistance with regard to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

MORONGO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

Franklin A. Dancy,

Director of Planning

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Morongo Band of Mission Indians realizes that there may be additional tribes claiming cultural affiliation to the area; however, Morongo can only speak for itself. The Tribe has no objection if the archaeologist wishes to consult with other tribes and if the city wishes to revise the condition to recognize other tribes.